

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 685

By Dixon

A RESOLUTION to urge the State of Tennessee to provide adequate funding for alternative education programs in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, every local education agency that operates a secondary school, grades 7-12, is required to provide an alternative school or alternative school program; and

WHEREAS, every local education agency that operates an elementary school, grades 1-6, is authorized to provide an alternative school or alternative school program; and

WHEREAS, alternative schools and programs are a necessity to meet the special needs of a select number of students in a school system who have been referred to the alternative school due to a disciplinary action; and

WHEREAS, such students may not have received the benefits of proper social development or mastered the cognitive skills necessary to be successful in a regular classroom. Through attendance at an alternative school many students can return and succeed in their regular school; and

WHEREAS, alternative schooling is a high cost item for local school districts and the amount of state funding provided does not meet the continuing need; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to the success of this State's children, and hence its economy and the total welfare of its people, that all alternative schools and alternative school programs be adequately funded by state government and that this most important issue be addressed by this General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that this General Assembly expresses its unwavering support for an increase in

funding to provide adequate financial assistance to all alternative schools and alternative education programs administered by the local education agencies of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby urge and encourage the Governor to include such an earmarked appropriation within the administration's general appropriations act for fiscal year 2004-2005.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Phil Bredesen, Governor of Tennessee, and to the Commissioners of Finance and Administration and Education.